

**Ex-militants set up party in Gaza**

GAZA (R) — Former members of the militant Islamic Jihad organisation in Gaza on Friday launched a new Palestinian political party which favours "preserving stability in the self-rule areas," founders said. The Palestinian Islamic Front (PIF) is the second Islamic group to be set up in self-ruled Gaza in two weeks with the blessing of the Palestinian self-rule authority. PIF founders dodged questions on whether they recognise Israel and on their overall objective. But they said they would participate in all bodies of the Palestinian Authority. "Tighten the ranks, maintain stability in the borders of the Palestinian Authority, encourage dialogue between the active forces to reach common denominators," said founder Ayesh Abdul Aal when asked about the objectives of his group. He said the 1993 agreement which launched Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho "did not restore rights to their (Palestinian) owners and did not lift injustice (from the Palestinian people)." Earlier this month, former activists of Hamas, which also violently opposes the peace agreement, set up a political party with funding from the Palestinian Authority.

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# King's speech signalled a change but not 'total shift'

Jordan will remain a window on Iraq and Iraqi people

## Albright: No early lifting of sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council is far from lifting sanctions on Iraq despite Baghdad's latest disclosures on its secret weapons programmes including a plan to produce a nuclear weapon by April 1991, the U.S. ambassador said Friday.

Iraq launched a crash programme to deploy a nuclear device before the Gulf war and their target date was April 1991, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said after an oral report to the council by the head of the U.N. commission on Iraqi disarmament.

She said Iraq's latest revelations said more about its low credibility and the threat it still poses than about the chance for an end to sanctions.

"It is important to tell the truth, because once you begin fabricating lies, it is very hard to remember what you lied about, and you create new lies and you lose all your credibility," she said. "For Iraq to regain its credibility, it has a very long long way to go."

The U.N. commission in charge of Baghdad's disarmament, led by Rolf Ekeus, must certify that Iraq has complied with U.N. requirements on its weapons programmes before the international sanctions can be dropped.

Mr. Ekeus, who just returned from a trip to Baghdad, also said the Iraqis disclosed that they had produced more bacteriological agents than they had previously acknowledged.

They also had a comprehensive programme to produce and deploy 200 biological warheads that could be delivered by long-range missiles and aircraft, he said.

The Security Council was next due to review the sanctions on Baghdad about Sept. 9, but no change was expected at that time, according to Western diplomats.

Ms. Albright said Mr. Ekeus told the council Iraq had produced and deployed some 200 fully-capable biological warheads for delivery by air and long-range missiles but backed off shortly before the Gulf war shortly before the Gulf war because of a warning by the United States.

He also told the council it had produced additional biological agents beyond those previously disclosed, she said.

Iraq has been hoping its latest disclosures would lead to a lifting of the debilitating oil embargo and trade restrictions imposed by the United Nations after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Following the briefing, Ms. Albright said the United States has enough support within the Security Council to block any attempt to eliminate the punitive measures. The United States also can veto any council action.

"We just received a chilling briefing," Ms. Albright said. "These latest disclosures from Baghdad say much more about the credibility of the Iraqi government and the threat it still poses than they do about the possibility of lifting sanctions any time soon."

Meanwhile, U.S. troops tested tanks at their desert camp in Kuwait on Friday while ships began sailing up the Gulf with material for 16,500 Marines amid moves to deter any possible threat from Iraq.

By Nermene Murad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation on Wednesday did signal a shift in Jordanian policy towards Iraq, but it was not the "total shift" under which Jordan was expected to take an active part in efforts to topple the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians and analysts say.

"Our relationship with Iraq has not changed," an official government source told the Jordan Times yesterday in commenting on the King's speech. "But that does not mean that we are not hoping for an improvement in the situation in Iraq," the source said. "Jordan will not close any door in pursuit of its major policy objective, that of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people through lifting the sanctions regime."

"While it is true that the King's speech did not at any time call for a change in our relationship with Iraq, whether it be on the economic or the human level," the source said, "it is also true that His Majesty stressed his concern for the Iraqi people without calling for the ouster of President Saddam."

"This rather unique position is further demonstrated

in yesterday's relayed in full by the Iraqi media."

The Crown Prince's statement, coupled with official government assurances that Jordan would not pursue active measures against the Iraqi regime, strongly indicate that a final break between Jordan and Iraq has not happened, as many Western and Arab politicians and analysts actually believe.

"Our relationship with Iraq has not changed," an official government source told the Jordan Times yesterday in commenting on the King's speech. "But that does not mean that we are not hoping for an improvement in the situation in Iraq," the source said. "Jordan will not close any door in pursuit of its major policy objective, that of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people through lifting the sanctions regime."

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(Continued on page 7)

## Pelletreau trip aimed at supporting Jordan, not anti-Saddam bid -- U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The State Department acting spokesman, John Dinger, Thursday emphasised that a recent trip to the Middle East by two senior U.S. officials sought enhanced support for Jordan, not the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A front-page New York Times article about the just-concluded trip to the region by Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and Mark Paris, special assistant in the president for national security affairs, "was based on an incorrect assumption," Mr. Dinger said.

The article asserted that "the diplomatic mission has failed" in an effort to weaken or topple the Iraqi government in the wake of the defections to Jordan of two senior Iraqi military officials — both sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein.

"That article is based on an incorrect assumption that the purpose of the trip by Mr. Pelletreau and Mr. Paris was

to overthrow Saddam" the acting spokesman stressed.

The acting spokesman declined to provide details of the discussions conducted by Mr. Pelletreau and Mr. Paris,

but he did say that "we are convinced that recent events have created a basis for reconciliation and closer cooperation among key U.S. partners in the region which did not exist a few weeks ago."

On their trip, the two officials met with senior government leaders in Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and then made a brief stop in Jordan again before returning to Washington.

"The recent meetings and the parties' public statements make us believe we will see more rapprochement between these and other countries in the period ahead," Mr. Dinger said. "We're entirely satisfied with the results of this trip. We're certain we will be able to work effectively with our friends in the region as a result of it. This is

(Continued on page 7)

## Baghdad says Hussein Kamel urged invasion of Kuwait and S. Arabia

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi government on Thursday dismissed accusations that it had planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and claimed that Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the Iraqi defector who made the charges, was lone in making the charges, he was lone in making the charges before his defection to Jordan this month.

The King clarified that he had heard from Gen. Hassan that the Iraqi leader had contemplated plans to reinvoke Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia. "It is enough to say that the mere thought of such action and the probability of its execution constitutes a terrible catastrophe for the Arab Nation...." said the King.

In "This is the Truth" programme broadcast by Iraqi Television, a text of which was released by the Iraqi embassy in Amman, the television announcer broadcast a recording which he described as the voice of Gen. Hassan addressing the

border with Iraq. The forces were later withdrawn when the U.S. rushed military forces to the region.

In his 45-minute speech to the nation on Wednesday, the King sharply criticised the Iraqi government, but he did not mention President Saddam by name.

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(Continued on page 7)

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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An Iraqi taxi driver loads new tyres on the top of his car in a parking lot for Iraqi taxis in Amman. Iraqi drivers buy Jordanian products to resell them in Iraq. (AFP photo)

## Jordanians split over economic impact of possible strain in ties

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday.

However, there was agreement that any freeze in trade and economic links between Jordan and Iraq could seriously affect Jordan. Any move along such a line from Iraq could come only if Baghdad is assured that it has an alternative outlet to the outside world, but that does not seem an immediate possibility, given the closure of Iraq's

(Continued on page 7)

## Parliamentarians view Iraq developments on party lines

By Sa'da Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Parliamentarians appeared divided on Friday over the impact of a possible strain in Jordanian-Iraqi ties on economic and trade links between the two neighbours, while the government said it did not foresee any sweeping negative effect on the relationship after the critical speech delivered by His

Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday.

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(Continued on page 7)

## Kuwaiti deputies welcome King's speech

Tapes are fake'  
— Iraqi defector

FORMER IRAQI Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan said Friday that tapes broadcast in Iraq in which he appeared to urge Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were a fake.

In his 45-minute speech to the nation on Wednesday, the King sharply criticised the Iraqi government, but he did not mention President Saddam by name.

The King clarified that he had heard from Gen. Hassan that the Iraqi leader had contemplated plans to reinvoke Kuwait as well as Saudi Arabia.

"It is enough to say that the mere thought of such action and the probability of its execution constitutes a terrible catastrophe for the Arab Nation...." said the King.

In a major speech Wednesday, His Majesty King Hussein blamed the Iraqi regime for Iraq's suffering and accused Iraq of repeatedly deceiving him and splitting the Arab World.

He told AFP by telephone that Iraq had "falsified" and dubbed together his words to discredit him after his defection.

A tape recording supposedly dating from October when he allegedly denounced U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus as a liar

was a "montage of comments made during a meeting of leaders on the attitude towards Ekeus," he said.

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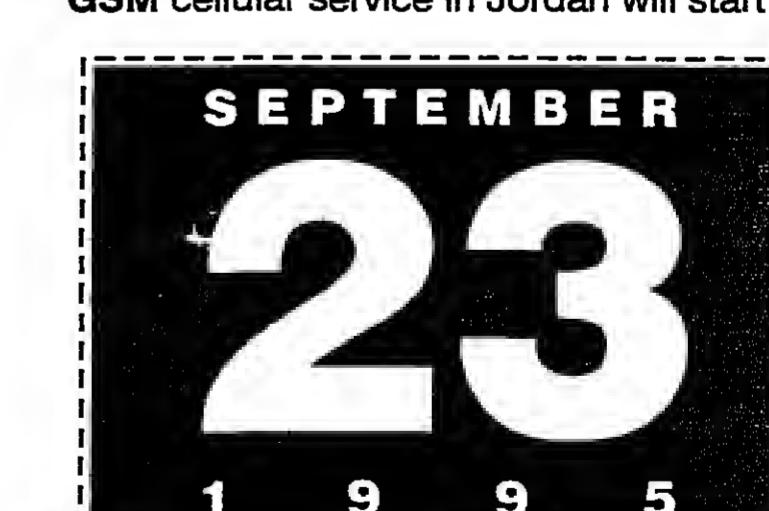
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programme broadcast by Iraqi Television, a text of

which was released by the Iraqi embassy in Amman, the television announcer broadcast a recording which he described as the voice of Gen. Hassan addressing the

(Continued on page 7)

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## More surprises seen in Iraq nuclear data

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's new disclosures about its weapons of mass destruction are likely to reveal nuclear arms data beyond findings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which closed most of its files a year ago.

According to diplomats and other sources, Iraq's crash programme to build a bomb was more advanced than suspected. Some related equipment may still be missing and some scientists may have continued theoretical work well after the 1991 Gulf war, they said.

The Vienna-based IAEA has issued frequent positive reports, saying it had a complete overview of the programme.

Iraq had claimed all pertinent documents and materials on weapons of mass destruction had been destroyed as ordered by the U.N. Security Council after the 1991 Gulf war.

But on Sunday, it gave U.N. disarmament experts more than 147 boxes of documents on paper, video tapes, computer disks and microfiche that are now sealed in a U.N.-protected centre in Baghdad, where arms officials expect to analyse the data.

The U.N. Special Commission, headed by Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus and responsible for ridding Iraq of its chemical, biological and long-range ballistic missiles, has revealed some crucial information on its new findings.

Sources familiar with the disclosures said Iraq had a far more active nuclear weapons programme than originally thought in its aim to produce its first atomic bomb, believed to be less than a year away before the Gulf war began.

## Baghdad must fulfil U.N. demands -- U.S.

WASHINGTON (USA) — State Department acting spokesman John Dinger said Thursday that Iraq must demonstrate its peaceful intentions by complying with all of its obligations under the various resolutions before there can be any discussion of modifying the economic sanctions regime imposed by the U.N.

"If and when Iraq chooses to comply fully with its obligations, the U.S. government will assess the situation accordingly," Mr. Dinger said.

Regarding recent Iraqi statements to Dr. Ekeus about its biological weapons programmes, Mr. Dinger pointed out that "Iraq has lied" for years about its past weapons programme to UNSCOM, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Security Council. "There is no better proof than the contrast between recent confirmations and Iraq's prior claims," he said.

The United States is looking forward to receiving Dr. Ekeus' report to the Security Council, he said. "Given Iraq's track record, it will take time to determine whether Iraq is now providing complete disclosure of its weapons programmes. (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a long way to go to convince the international community of his peaceful intentions," the acting spokesman said.

"Iraq's other obligations include a full accounting for those killed or missing as a result of the invasion of

Iraq, they said, indicated it had more centrifuge equipment, used to enrich uranium for a bomb, than admitted earlier. Some of the equipment may not have been destroyed.

There was also evidence that Iraq continued theoretical work for designing bombs well after the 1991 war. While computer models are not explicitly prohibited by Security Council resolutions, their existence has to be reported.

In its Security Council reports, the IAEA said it was "confident that the essential components of Iraq's past clandestine nuclear programme have been identified and have been destroyed, removed or rendered harmless, as appropriate."

Officials from the Special Commission were also astounded by the scope of Iraq's efforts to produce germ weapons and ballistic missiles, although Dr. Ekeus had previously reported his suspicions on biological agents and weapons to carry them.

"They claim all is now destroyed," said Charles Duerler, the commission's deputy chairman. "Our Task is to verify that. Some of it is buried in holes and we are going to dig up the holes and look for bits and pieces."

Dr. Ekeus and other officials said Iraq has now admitted:

— Germ or toxin-filled munitions, bombs and missiles ready for use during the war against Israel or Saudi Arabia or U.S.-led troops.

— Five different sites, rather than one, for producing biological agents, such as anthrax bacteria, botulinum toxin as well as another mycotoxin from a fungus, an ingredient in the "yellow rain" that Iraq used in the 1980s.

— A capability of producing its own engines for Scuds and other ballistic missiles.

## Arrests in Hebron

Israeli soldiers lead three blindfolded Palestinians held on suspicion of anti-Israeli activities, in Hebron. Israeli soldiers on Friday shot dead two Palestinians, who, the Israeli army said, were wanted activists of Hamas (see page 12) (AFP photo)

## Rabbani soldiers push back Talibans

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government said on Friday its forces had pushed the Taleban student militia's defensive lines almost 40 kilometres across the southwestern plains of Afghanistan.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's defence spokesman, known only as Dr. Abdullah, said pro-Rabbani fighters launched their attack on the Taliban's westernmost stronghold of Delaram last Wednesday.

"We are now shelling the town of Girishk in Helmand province. If we can capture Girishk, we will be well placed to launch an attack on the borders of Kandahar," he said.

Kandahar is the Taliban's headquarters and an attack on it would be a major blow to the student militia's morale, Western sources said.

Dr. Abdullah said Defence Ministry strategists were convinced that if they did target the southern city, former fighters still living in Kandahar would support the attack with an internal rebellion.

"Already the Taliban are demoralised," Dr. Abdullah said. "We have killed 50 of their fighters and captured about 100 along with 12 tanks, 12 ZU anti-aircraft guns, and loads of light weapons."

He said 10 pro-Rabbani fighters were killed and 20 wounded by the Talibans.

There was no independent confirmation of the fighting.

Taliban sources confirmed losing some ground, but said the situation was not as desperate as stated by Dr. Abdullah.

Dr. Abdullah said pro-Rabbani fighters had also seized the initiative in another fight 30 kilometres east of Kabul.

Fighting was also going on with the oldest military rival, the Hezb-e-Islami faction of Guluddin Hekmatyar, which had launched an offensive on positions around the strategically important town of Serobe, Dr. Abdullah said.

By late Thursday evening, pro-Rabbani forces were within four or five kilometres of the main Hezb-e-Islami bases and using artillery and tanks to shell the opposition fighters there, he added.

"We have also captured Tizin and Jaji, two villages around Serobe, so Hekmatyar can't resupply the base anymore," Dr. Abdullah said.

The United States is looking forward to receiving Dr. Ekeus' report to the Security Council, he said. "Given Iraq's track record, it will take time to determine whether Iraq is now providing complete disclosure of its weapons programmes. (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has a long way to go to convince the international community of his peaceful intentions," the acting spokesman said.

Reports by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM), on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programme "are one of a number of factors the council will take into account when examining the issue of Iraqi compliance," the acting spokesman said.

"Iraq's other obligations include a full accounting for those killed or missing as a result of the invasion of



## Japanese troops to join Golan Height observers

TOKYO (R) — Japan will send troops to the Middle East for the first time in its history next year as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights, a Japanese Socialist Party (JSP) spokesman said on Friday.

Under a draft plan approved by the socialists on Friday, Japanese troops will take on a limited transport role in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

Japanese troops will not transport weapons or ammunition for troops of other countries, and will retain the right to withdraw at any time on orders from Tokyo rather than of UNDOF, the draft plan said.

Details of next February's dispatch will be formally announced at a cabinet meeting next Tuesday, he said.

The plan has been pushed by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), senior partners in Mr. Murayama's coalition government.

The Socialist Party had been blocking it on grounds that it could violate the country's controversial 1992 Peacekeeping Operations Act, which does not allow

of military contribution by contributing aid.

After the war, Japan sent a flotilla of minesweepers but this did not impress its allies, especially the United States.

As a result, the conservative LDP government at the time pushed through the controversial Peacekeeping Operations Act in 1992, overcoming strong pacifist opposition, especially from the socialists. The two are now in an unwieldy alliance under Mr. Murayama along with the smaller conservative Sakigake Party.

Under the 1947 constitution, Japan's armed forces, called the Self-Defence Forces, have been restricted to a purely defensive role, hence Japan's hesitation in sending troops abroad under any pretext.

It would be Japan's fourth such contribution to U.N. peacekeeping and refugee aid programme since 1992, after Cambodia, Mozambique and Rwanda.

## Mastermind of blasts sought revenge for house demolition

By Said Ghazali  
The Associated Press

BALATA REFUGEE CAMP — Abdul Nasr Issa, accused of masterminding a ring of suicide bombers, is a hero to his sisters who say he was justified in getting revenge for the army's destruction of the family home. But Issa's father disagrees.

"Anyone who kills civilians is not a hero," said Attalah Issa, 61, who tried to locate his son and persuade him to abandon his commitment to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement that has tried to wreck the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy plan.

In interviews Thursday, the divided family reflects the schisms within the Palestinian community about the attacks, which have claimed 90 lives and wounded hundreds while Israel and the PLO were negotiating peace.

"I don't condemn what my brother did," said Abdul Nasr's sister Tamman, 28, an English literature teacher. She said Israeli generals were treated as heroes for killing Palestinians "so we consider them a hero."

Samar Issa, 34, a housewife who like her younger sister wears the "mandil" headscarf of an observant

Muslim woman, said her brother's actions were an outgrowth of the way the Issa family and other Palestinians have been treated during Israel's 27-year occupation of the West Bank.

Until his disappearance, Abdul Nasr, 27, was the head of the 1,000-member Islamic bloc at Al Najah University in nearby Nablus where he studied Islamic law. He had been on the run from Israeli authorities since December and his father went after him, checking out rumours that he had fled to the PLO-run autonomous areas in the Gaza Strip and West Bank region of Jericho.

"I tried to reach him. I tried to make contact. I didn't want him to join Hamas, and I told him all the time to leave Hamas, but he didn't listen," said Attalah.

"I argued with him several times that this struggle is bigger than you, and he should think realistically."

His father, 61, owner of a tile factory, said he tried to reason with his son using his own experience as an activist for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He served nearly 10 years in jail until 1978, and the army also seized his car, banned him from travel abroad and sealed the family home for three years.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Manila to apologise to UAE for flag burning

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said here Friday that he would apologise to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the burning of a UAE flag by an ex-cop-turned activist. Mr. Siazon, in an interview aired by private radio station DZRH, said that while the burning of flags was a common sign of protest in the Philippines, it was considered an insult in other countries. Mr. Siazon was apparently hoping to assuage any anger against the Philippines that might affect the verdict in the retrial of a 16-year-old Filipino maid who risks the death penalty for stabbing her employer to death in the Gulf state. The verdict in the retrial of Sarah Balabagan, who was sentenced to seven years in jail on June 24, for the murder of her employer, is scheduled for Saturday. Ms. Balabagan has said she killed her employer after he raped her. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan cancelled the verdict and ordered a retrial. A lawyer for Ms. Balabagan was also quoted by DZRH as saying that the burning of the flag endangered his case. Abner Afuang, a former policeman who has taken to staging various public protests for different causes, set fire to the flags of five countries, including the UAE, last month, to protest against abuses of Filipinos working in those countries.

### S. Korea defence minister to visit Israel

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-bo was headed for Israel on Friday for talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on bilateral military cooperation. Mr. Lee and Mr. Rabin, who holds Israel's defence portfolio, were to discuss ways to improve defence industry cooperation and exchanges of military personnel and information. The Aug. 25-31 visit will be the first to Israel by a South Korean defence minister since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1962.

### Yemen holds 2 Swedish police officers

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Two Swedish police officers are being prevented from leaving the Yemeni capital of Sanaa after the authorities there confiscated their passports. The Swedish Foreign Ministry said late Thursday. The officers, a man and a woman, arrived in Sanaa on Aug. 14 as escorts to an Iraqi family of four who had been expelled from Sweden. The private TV 4 television station quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Stockholm had received no explanation from the Yemeni authorities for their action. "According to our information the expulsion of the Iraqi family took place in accordance with international regulations," spokesman Staffan Bjoerck said, adding that Sanaa had also refused to accept the Iraqis, who had previously lived in Yemen. Mr. Bjoerck said that a Swedish diplomat from the embassy in Riyadh, Leif Ringquist, had gone to Yemen to try to secure the restitution of the police officers' passports and the acceptance of the Iraqis. Meanwhile, the officers were being housed in the Swedish consulate in Sanaa, the spokesman said.

### U.S. ships enter Gulf with material for Marines

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Ships carrying enough tanks and other equipment for 16,500 U.S. Marines sailed up the Gulf on Friday to deter any possible threat from Iraq, a U.S. Navy spokesman in the region said. Three of the ships were in the south or central Gulf and the fourth was due to enter the waterway in the next two days after sailing from the Indian Ocean base at Diego Garcia, the spokesman told AFP by telephone. "Each ship has a little slice of everything. Jeeps, tanks, guns, food," he said. If there were a crisis such as Iraq threatening to invade Kuwait, the Marines would be flown in from the United States and "they'll meet up with their equipment on the beach," he said. The U.S. aircraft Independence was also en route to the Gulf from Japan and expected to enter the Gulf in September to replace the Abraham Lincoln, which has been ordered to stay put as a precaution.

### Germany expels two Iranian diplomats

NICOSIA (AFP) — Germany has expelled two Iranian diplomats for "spying." Iran's main armed opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, said Friday. "The German government has expelled two members of the Iranian embassy," the group said in a statement received by AFP in Nicosia without giving the date of the expulsions. The foreign ministry in Bonn contacted by AFP refused to make any comment, and in Tehran ministry officials could not be reached as Friday is a holiday in Iran. The Mujahedeen statement named Ali Osouli, based in Bonn, saying he "has received orders to leave the country for violating international diplomatic protocols." It charged that Mr. Osouli was "an agent of (Iran's) Ministry of Intelligence who worked... on the third floor of the regime's embassy in Bonn." "The other agent" ordered to leave is Seyed Jalal Abbasi, who worked in the regime's consulate in Frankfurt for two years and was in charge of spying against the members and supporters of the Iranian resistance," the statement said. Mr. Osouli has been the embassy's third secretary since November 1992, but the other diplomat was not on Bonn's diplomatic list.

### Turkish troops kill 15 Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish troops killed 15 Kurdish separatist rebels in clashes in the southeast Anatolia region of the country, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. The operations took place in the province of Diyarbakir, capital of the Anatolia region populated mainly by Kurds, according to a communiqué from the police headquarters in Diyarbakir. The communiqué did not say when the fighting occurred, but the Turkish army carries out daily sweeps against the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the region.

### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:49 ..... Beirut (RJ)

08:49 ..... Amman (RJ)

09:30 ..... London, Damascus (RJ)

03:35 ..... Antalya (TK)

04:30 ..... Istanbul (TK)

05:30 ..... Ankara (TK)

06:30 ..... Tel Aviv (RJ)

07:30 ..... Paris (RJ)

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# Home News

## BRIEF

### JAE for flag burning

Foreign Secretary Douglas H. Ford would apologize for the burning of a U.S. flag by a Jordanian activist, Mr. Shazan, said to have been at the UAE embassy. He was considered a serious threat to the Philippines that might bring her employer to court in the retrial of a seven-year-old case against her employer, who is scheduled to be killed by his employer, Sheikh Zayed, ordered a retrial. A lawyer for DZRH has argued that their case has taken on new causes, set fire to the UAE, last month, while working in it.

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**RAILWAY TRA**

Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every day

Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every day

Amman ... 7:30 a.m. every day

Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every day

**MARKET PRICES**

car/flower price in fils per kg

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## Rwandan refugee repatriation from Zaire makes slow start

KIBUMBA CAMP, Zaire (R) — A U.N. voluntary repatriation operation to Rwanda got off to a slow start in Zaire Friday with only small numbers of refugees leaving for their homeland.

At Kibumba camp, with 200,000 residents the largest in the Goma region of eastern Zaire, only 87 Rwandan refugees — mostly women and children — boarded U.N. trucks on Friday morning.

"Everyone's waiting for everyone else to go. It's a slow start. People need security assurances," Ivan Sturm, a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation officer, told Reuters.

Hundreds of young men stood by the main road and watched the 87 board three U.N. trucks and set off for the border.

The young men told journalists they would not return to Rwanda despite UNHCR Friday resuming voluntary repatriation which was suspended Saturday when Zaire started mass deportations.

Many of the estimated one million Rwandan Hutu refugees in eastern Zaire fear being killed on return in re-

prisal for last year's genocide in Rwanda of up to a million Tutsis and Hutus.

After expelling some 15,000 Rwandans and Burundians, Zaire signalled Thursday it was satisfied with a UNHCR offer to transform the deportations by the Zairean army into voluntary repatriations.

U.N. officials said they had the capacity to truck 5,000 people daily to Rwanda, where they would be put in transit camps for screening by Rwandan authorities, intent on catching any former troops or militiamen involved in the genocide.

"If we go back to Rwanda, all young men will be killed immediately," said Mousa Iziyira, a young refugee, at Kibumba.

Those who boarded the trucks said they wanted to go home because they understood they were not wanted in Zaire any more.

"I'm a clever man. I always listen to the radio. That is why I'm going back. I make my own decisions," said 28-year-old Jean-Baptiste Rwanika as he clambered aboard a truck with his few belongings.

"That which I fled is still

there in Rwanda," he said. Tens of thousands of Rwandan refugees returned from the mountains to camps in eastern Zaire Friday after Zairean troops stopped expulsions, U.N. officials said.

In nearby Kitale camp UNHCR officials said about 100 people volunteered to go. They said the trucks would wait until noon (1000 GMT) Friday and would return Monday to Kibumba and Kitale.

They said the trucks would go to Mugunga and Lac Vert camps northwest of Goma Saturday to collect any refugees who wanted to go.

U.N. officials said they had expected a slow start to voluntary repatriation but stressed the key element had been Zaire's decision to suspend the forced expulsions.

There is a ferment among refugees for returning en masse.

We'd like to accelerate this process and use the momentum," he said by telephone.

He said refugees did not want to return in small groups. "They want to go back in groups of 2,000 to 3,000. I'd like to use the next three days to build up a group of 3,000 to be taken home," he added.

Passers-by haul a truck-driver to safety from Seoul's Han River after he was swept away from the vehicle as torrential rains spawned by typhoon Janis sent the river pouring over

riverside drives. At least 37 people were killed or missing as torrential rains have unleashed landslides, derailed a train and cut roads and bridges (AFP photo).

## S. Korea hit by typhoon-spawned rains; 37 killed or missing

SEOUL (AP) — At least 37 people were killed or missing as torrential rains spawned by typhoon Janis pounded South Korea Friday, unleashing landslides, derailing a train and cutting roads and bridges.

The seventh typhoon of this year threatens to trigger the worst floods in five years here when it bits central South Korea Saturday afternoon, Home Ministry officials said.

The highest casualties were inflicted near Yongju City, 130 kilometres southeast of Seoul, where five people were killed and 16 others missing after landslides swept away 24 houses, television reports said.

In Kongju City, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Seoul, nine people were killed when another landslide buried two houses.

A train carrying 500 passengers derailed in Kwasan County, 100 kilometres (60 miles) southeast of Seoul, killing one person, injuring 160 and leaving eight reported missing, Yonhap Television News said.

The accident occurred

when a section of a bridge, weakened by a rain-swollen stream, caved in, sending eight cars of the 11-car train toppling off the track.

A 38-year-old railroad vendor was confirmed dead and eight others were seen falling into the stream.

About 300 rescue workers were rushed to the site but were hampered by the driving rains and the rushing stream.

The central and eastern parts of the country have been battered by pouring rains brought on by typhoon Janis since Wednesday, with some areas receiving more than 40 centimetres (12 inches) of rain in the past 24 hours.

Five railroad lines, including the main Seoul-Pusan artery, were paralysed and many sections of roads and bridges were washed away or submerged.

Flood warnings were replaced by flood alarms for low lying areas around the Han River flowing through this capital and the Han's tributaries, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate to higher land. AFP reporters said river

water was rising fast.

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**Milk truck thief proves cream doesn't pay**

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand police were confronted with a messy problem after a stolen milk truck collided with a baker's van in a scene reminiscent of slapstick comedy. Police said the truck was stolen as its driver was making a delivery about 3.30 a.m.. A 19-year-old man jumped into the truck and drove around the street corner, straight into the bread van. "There was milk, cream, cheese, yoghurt, bread and crates spread all over the place," said Inspector Albie Wilson of Wellington Police. The truck driver led police on a sedate chase along a nearby motorway before he was apprehended and arrested on a charge of unlawfully taking a vehicle.

**Unknown Presley recording offered for sale**

LONDON (AP) — A previously unknown recording by Elvis Presley is part of a trove of memorabilia — ranging from a white Rolls-Royce to dreams — to be auctioned in October. Bonhams auctioneers, which organised the sale with Butterfield and Butterfield of Los Angeles and San Francisco, said the recording was offered for sale by Dick Grob, formerly chief of security for the singer. Provisionally titled Let Me Make Believe Awhile, the recording is 78 rpm acetate that may have been made in Presley's home studio. The date has not been established. Bonhams estimated that the record will go for \$40,000 to \$60,000 in the sale, scheduled for Oct. 6-7 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The recording was also issued for the central area of the country, including this capital and its surrounding Kyonggi Province, as weathermen predicted more rains of between 10 and 50 centimetres (four to 20 inches) until Sunday. The typhoon, with a central air pressure of 992 hectopascals and a wind speed of 23 metres per second at its centre, was described as relatively weak but was picking up speed as it moved northward.

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# Opinion & Analysis

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Shift, when right

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the nation Wednesday in which he strongly criticised the Iraqi leadership's handling of the crisis in Iraq does not necessarily signify an immediate Jordanian policy shift regarding its eastern neighbour and sister country. As early as the summer of 1992, King Hussein expressed his dismay at the Iraqi leadership's clinging to power in disregard for the plight of its people. In fact most Jordanians had long lost faith in the Iraqi leadership following its failure to save face, and the whole of Iraq, in the early days of the Gulf crisis by withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and afterwards when the Iraqi army was defeated and humiliated despite its leaders' stubbornness in standing up to the U.S.-led alliance.

It is true the Jordan's interest lies in trading with Iraq, which, on the other hand, serves as the Kingdom's strategic depth. Moreover, Jordan and the Jordanians love Iraq and the Iraqis as brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends. But Jordan has equal interest with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the rest of the Arab countries. Whether the contention that Iraq contemplated twice in the past eight months a repeat of the 1990 Kuwait debacle or not, we have to admit that there is genuine fear in Riyadh and Kuwait of the intentions of the Iraqi regime.

A similar fear also exists in Israel, which now is in peace with Jordan and which is only separated from the Jewish state by the Jordanian desert and the cities of Zarqa, Amman and Salt. The same Iraqi regime, as the King has pointed out, used Jordanian airspace to launch rocket attacks on Israel with total disregard to Jordan's security.

There is a near consensus in the Arab World and in the West that the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq will not be totally lifted, unless and until Iraq complied fully with all U.N. resolutions including an account of Kuwaiti prisoners and the introduction of a politically system that respects human rights of all Iraqis.

Judging by the record of the Iraqi regime these will take ages to accomplish. Jordan cannot therefore wait for too long to achieve one of its major policy objectives, which is none other than to lift the sanctions and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. If the King's warning to the Iraqi leadership to change strategy and tactics are not heeded promptly then a real shift in Jordan's policy will become inevitable. It is not right for any regime to survive while its people dies.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ROLF EKEUS came to Amman not to learn more about Iraqi military secrets or more secrets about Iraqi weapons but as part of his mission help the American intelligence services, charged Tareq Masarweh, a writer in Al Ra'i. Mr. Ekeus knew well that Hussein Kamel Hassan, who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8, could not have brought with him military secrets and scientific data which all the Iraqi scientists and engineers have compiled for years, but he came in order to complete his American-set mission by meeting with the defector for reasons known only to the American military and U.S. administration, said the writer. We heard Mr. Ekeus say that the Iraqis are unable to produce any mass destruction weapons and that all the Iraqi weapons of this kind have been destroyed and surveillance is in place in Iraq to monitor future developments in any weapons production, said the writer. Therefore, there could be no further justification for the sanctions, said the writer, who added that Mr. Ekeus and the Western powers are intent on removing the Iraqi scientists or luring them away from their country so that they would not be able to develop dangerous weapons in the future. This, he said, was his second mission in the area crying that to date 11,000 Iraqi medical specialists have emigrated to Australia and New Zealand in the past three years. The writer said that the next mission of Mr. Ekeus is to see that the Iraqi scientists are removed from the scene and until that happens the Iraqi people will have to continue to suffer under the crippling sanctions.

A WRITER in Al Dustour daily criticised officials at the Ministry of Education who have been claiming that all preparations were made for the start of the school year and for lessons to be given as of the first day in school. When the schools opened Tuesday no arrangements had been made for the start of teaching; there were shortages of books and stationery and the schools administrations as well as the parents were busy trying to find the textbooks, the stationery and other requirements, said Fakhril Kawar. The writer, said that the parents and all Jordanians were happy to hear that ministry officials had made arrangements for the students to start learning right from the start of the school year but they were disappointed when they were faced with the realities on the ground. He said that the officials should have told the public the truth about the situation, especially as the schools are receiving 1.3 million students who need the services of 70,000 teachers, adding that this is not an easy task and that the ministry should have made ample preparations for the schools weeks before they were re-opened for the school year. On top of the difficulties at the schools, said the writer, many of the parents who come from limited-income groups could by no means afford to buy the books and stationery as they have not yet received their salaries, which come at the end of the month.

## Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

# King's speech signals no change in Jordan's policy towards Iraq

HIS MAJESTY the King's address to the nation on Wednesday on the recent developments in Iraq and Jordanian-Iraqi relations did not signal any shift in the Kingdom's policy towards its eastern neighbour. It was, in fact, a collective summary of what the King had been saying in public and private since the Gulf crisis. If one puts together what the King said during his trip to the U.S. and in discussions with Arab and foreign leaders since 1990, then we have a major part of the speech. The additional element in the address was the situation after the Aug. 8 defection of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Iraq's former minister of industries and the brains behind the country's weapons programmes.

In basic terms, the King's words reflected the continued Jordanian concern to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. Regardless of the shifts in the regional political map throughout history, human contacts and relations between Jordanians and Iraqis have always remained strong. As such, the suffering of the Iraqi people under the crippling sanctions, imposed when their country invaded Kuwait five years ago, pains us all.

Jordan never made any secret of its consistent effort to ease/relax the sanctions against Iraq so that Iraqi mothers could feed their children and the sick and elderly could be looked after. That was indeed Jordan's first priority and it remains so today. The next priority was to ensure that Iraq, a force to reckon with in political, economic and military terms in the Middle East, is brought back into the mainstream life in the region and given back the strong and effective role it has always played in regional politics.

Regardless of everything, it remains a solid fact on the ground that Iraq is among the giants of the Middle East. The human and material resources of that country could not be matched with any other player in the region. Side-stepping Iraq and working to bring about changes in the region to be compatible with the so-called new world order would never be effective simply because Iraq is very much part of the regional order and of the larger world

order. However, Jordan always put the human element first and politics second. For us in Jordan it was and is unbearable to see our brethren and sisters being denied their basic right, the right to live with their fundamental needs — foods, medicine, clothing, housing and education despite the vast resources their country holds.

Very unfortunately, the efforts to Jordan alone could not succeed, particularly that the big powers of the world had their priorities and agendas. Posing further obstacles to the Jordanian quest to help the people of Iraq was the obvious cat-and-mouse game that Baghdad and the United Nations played in the context of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

From a detached point of view, it would look as if the international community stood back and watched as the game was being played out, with a very biased party, the United States, assuming the role of referee. Needless to say, the outcome of the game had been predetermined and remains so today.

In such a scenario, Jordan could have hoped to achieve very little effective results in its campaign to end the misery of the people of Iraq. At the same time, what was going on within the borders of Iraq was not conducive to helping the campaign either.

In a nutshell, the King's address reflected the pain of the people of Jordan as they witness the people of Iraq suffer. The pain is intensified when we also see that the country's external policies, by design or coincidence, are contradictory to the very essence of the situation and the need to satisfy international norms and requisites.

Irqi television broadcast the King's speech in its entirety without comment except that Iraqi viewers were told to draw their conclusions from the Monarch's words. One definite motivation behind the Iraqi decision to broadcast the speech was clear. There could not have been any mistaking of the Jordanian concern and sympathy for the Iraqi people in their hour of suffering.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Israeli policies feuding violence in occupied territories

By Elia Nasrallah

THE ARABIC dailies last week gave prominence to the bus explosion at Ramat Eshkol in occupied Jerusalem, the Iraqi question, pan-Arab affairs and domestic issues.

Writing in Al Dustour, columnist Saleh Al Qallab blamed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the explosion in Jerusalem, saying that his policies have paved the way for such incident. The arrest of Musa Marzuk one of Hamas leaders in the United States, and the Jewish settlers attacks on Arab lands and property have served as a catalyst for the explosion in Jerusalem.

The writer said that the Palestinians have been hearing promises that peace was imminent but for the past 25 years they did not feel peace and have been hoping for an end to occupation but in reality they continue to see settlers squatting on Palestinian land, attacking Palestinian citizens and seizing their property.

Warning that the explosion in Jerusalem would not be the last, a writer in the weekly Al Sabi said that it was the Jews that started the violence against the Arabs and they are now paying for their actions. Hilm Al Asmar said that the Jews have killed a great number of Arabs in the past three decades, burnt Al Aqsa Mosque, attacked worshippers in the holy shrines, demolished Arab homes and continue to detain thousands others. The writer said that the attack despite the closure of the Gaza Strip and the strict security precautions in Israel. Indeed, said the writer, the attack was expected because Mr. Rabin has escalated his government's repression of the Palestinians and continued to drag his feet over the implementation of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians.

As long as the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations remain deadlocked and the Palestinians denied their legitimate rights, Israel should expect more explosions and more suicidal attacks, said Ahmad Al Misheh in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the attack in Jerusalem came as a natural reaction to Israel's repressive measures, the Jewish settlers' attacks on Arab lands, the closure of holy shrines in Jerusalem and Hebron before the Arab worshippers and Israel's continued settlements policies.

We do not condone the killing of innocent civilians and call for peace and security to prevail so that violence would end, said the writer, who added that the Israelis on the other hand seem to be opposed to such principles and are not interested in a comprehensive peace. He said Israel should speed up the peace process and give back the Palestinians their rights so as to avoid violent attacks in the future.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i, described the bus explosion in Jerusalem in the past week as an expression of despair and frustration on the part of the Palestinians, who are fed up with the promises

about peace and freedom without seeing the peace dividends come true. The writer said that all the explosions that take place inside Israel should not be interpreted as mines in the path of peace but rather as actions intended to goad Israel to implement U.N. resolutions, pull out its forces from Arab land and end the presence of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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Saleh Al Qallab, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the uproar created by the Americans over Iraq nowadays will not affect the Iraqi leadership and so remain dependent on the United States for weapons and protection. He said that the Gulf countries, which have paid dearly in the Gulf crisis, are trying not to fall in the American trap once again.

Not a single person in Jordan wishes to see the embargo on Iraq continued and so Jordanian expects American pressure on the Kingdom to succeed, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour. Jordan is not closing its borders with Iraq nor is it ending its trade with the Iraqi people despite America's pressure on it to help tighten the noose around the Iraqi leadership, said the writer. He said that Jordan did not succumb to Washington's pressures in Jordan wishes to see the embargo on Iraq continued and so Jordanian expects American pressure on the Kingdom to succeed, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour. Jordan is not closing its borders with Iraq nor is it ending its trade with the Iraqi people despite America's pressure on it to help tighten the noose around the Iraqi leadership, said the writer. He said that Jordan did not succumb to Washington's pressures in

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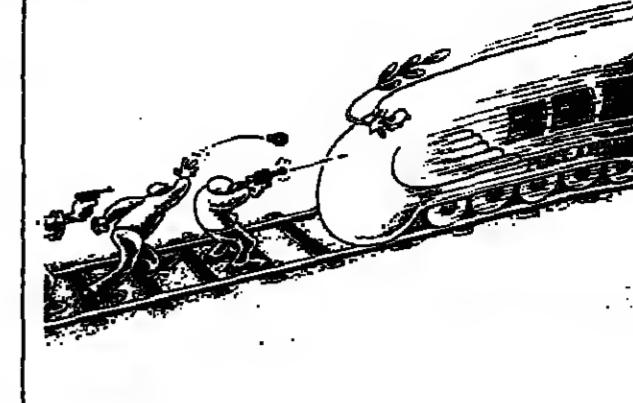
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JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

M KAHL



## Of cucumbers and government

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

IT HAS recently come to my attention that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is helping Jordan set up a corporation to supervise the domestic production of food and the use of insecticides and hormones. Frankly, I was dismayed to read that another government corporation is being created. I had thought that we have finally begun to divest the government of its corporations, and now I hear that a new corporation is being set up. We claim that Jordan is a market economy but with all these corporations (which are basically regulatory bodies) sprouting up, one can legitimately question this claim. Those of us who blame large government for many of our economic woes and wish to see a smaller public sector are saddened by the news.

But wait! To the government's credit, WHO, a world-class and fully credible organisation, is supporting this measure and we do know of many rumours (emanating from scientific research) which state that cucumbers are not fit to eat unless peeled and tomatoes have to be soaked in chlorine or something of the kind to wash away the chemicals. My favourite story is about the ever-growing cucumbers: A husband who purchased tiny cucumbers from the local vegetable stand wakes up in the morning to popping sounds coming from the refrigerator and finds out that his tiny cucumbers have grown overnight into giants, so he screams to his wife "Honey, I blew-up the cucumbers" (this story may be a bit far-fetched but I have been hearing it repeatedly since I came back to Jordan a year ago).

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Therefore, substitute labour from Egypt and Syria does the honours.

■ The interest rate is high and has recently increased further relative to the rate of return on agricultural ventures; so borrowing is not economically justifiable for farmers who wish to expand production.

■ Water is a very scarce resource in Jordan and it is expensive to obtain. Thus, agriculture becomes an even higher risk industry that depends on rain water.

■ Managerial farming skills in Jordan are lacking, therefore, information asymmetries in the producer-seller-buyer triangle contribute further to faulty decisions and make bankers require higher interest rates on loans than they normally would.

■ The cost of equipment is formidable due to customs duties and shipping costs which force the farmer to continue to use labour intensive production techniques.

■ The drive to build that ultimate villa is being satisfied by ruining and depleting our scarce agricultural lands which further increases the price of land and makes the opportunity cost of farming in Jordan the highest in the world.

■ Since land, labour, machinery and water are all relatively expensive, what is left for the farmers to do? The answer must be to raise the price. Which brings us to the next point.

### 2. Government control of prices and price-ceilings:

The government has taken upon itself to control the prices of agricultural goods. So a farmer who is faced with rising production costs cannot raise prices because the government will fine him for doing so. Now, if you were in his shoes, what would you do? You would use more and more fertiliser to get the most out of your land. Of course, you know that such uses are harmful to people, but rational thinking dictates that as long as your gain outweighs your cost you will use it again and again. Also, as long as you do not know of the immediate dangers you are bringing upon yourself and the environment, you will always play the social cost of hormones and poisonous fertiliser.

### 3. Lack of consumer and producer awareness

Quality should be our first and foremost concern. One should never accept the statement "this is the best there is" because this statement is a cop out. Every product should have a label which carries information about its contents.

■ Labels should be clear and easily readable.

■ Consumers should for the names of the contents of a product in order to decide upon its suitability for consumption.

■ Producers should demand, obtain, and disclose full information about the contents of a product they are planning to use.

■ Laws must punish false advertisers and consumers need to know that they can sue people who cheat them.



**BUSINESS AS USUAL:** Iraqis go about their business as usual in the streets of Baghdad. The situation in the Iraqi capital was reportedly normal and there was little sign of tension raised by the recent developments (AFP photo)

## King speech signals shift

(Continued from page 1)

before, substitute labours, in Egypt and Syria.

The interest rates have recently been further reduced, the rate of return on investment ventures, so it is not economic, it is not feasible for farmers to expand production.

Water is a very scarce resource in Jordan and is expensive to obtain. The culture has become a higher risk factor.

Managerial factors in Jordan are also before, information in the media, it is difficult to obtain. The culture has become a higher risk factor.

There is no decisive shift especially if one recalls that the King's comments about Iraq over the past few years have not exactly been flattering to the Iraqi regime," a former senior official says.

Other politicians and analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times say that while the King has sought to clarify the reasons behind Jordan's growing disappointment with the Iraqi regime, His Majesty's criticism was not new.

"There is no decisive shift especially if one recalls that the King's comments about Iraq over the past few years have not exactly been flattering to the Iraqi regime," a former senior official says.

"What is new this time is the context and circumstances in which the King's disappointment and criticism have been expressed."

The former official was pointing to several public statements made by the King since the Gulf war ceasefire of 1991, including a recent open call for change he made in an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Achronot*.

In the U.S. in 1992 the King, after meeting with Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar bin Sultan, said that if he felt that his presence was becoming a burden to his people he would leave in what was interpreted to be a direct reference to President Saddam.

"With this in mind, one cannot say that the speech is a sudden shift," the former official says.

But what might be a shift, Jordanian politicians and analysts generally agree, is that the King, by making the speech now, appeared to be preparing the Jordanian people for a possible change of policy if the situation requires it to the future.

"This is perhaps one of the main objectives of the speech," a parliamentarian maintains. "Besides, the King also wanted to answer sceptics on his decision to grant asylum to (Lt. Gen. Hussein) Kamel and explain the thinking that had guided his decision."

The King, those who spoke to the Jordan Times point out, was trying to impress upon Jordanians that a new Middle East within a new world reality was emerging; and based on this, the Arabs, including the Iraqis, needed to understand more about the requirements of the new era.

In his speech, the King said, that he wished for the Arab Nation "to wake up to the reality of a world that has changed to the extent that it witnessed the rise of a historical movement that brought to surface contradictions of all sorts at the same time."

"The King was giving the Jordanian people a demonstration of the new regional dynamics," a former minister says. "The King was basically saying that Jordan's actions today have to be assessed by the standards of the new era."

Western analysts have been describing what they see as the King's new shift in policy as the "missing element for a strategy to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power."

**Pelletreau trip not anti-Iraq bid**

(Continued from page 1)

ment," he said. "Jordan is dependent on Iraq for petroleum and has been unable to find an economically feasible alternative."

"We're working with the Jordanian government on additional steps to combat sanctions evasion. We have a very active dialogue with the Jordanians on this issue," the acting spokesman said. "The Jordanian government has been very supportive of efforts to interdict goods destined for Iraq that pass through Aqaba, Jordan's only seaport."

"The Security Council has taken note of this arrangement."

## Mubarak offers asylum

(Continued from page 1)

Contending that with Jordan's latest shift in attitude "the cards are all there to topple the regime in Baghdad," a Western diplomat was quoted by Reuters in Amman as saying "now it is just a question of progressing with caution and sensitivity to the local sentiment of all these countries concerned."

But despite the West's excitement over the Iraqi defectors and the King's speech further distancing himself from the Iraqi regime, Jordanian politicians say that Jordan has not yet received any iron-clad guarantees that would convince Jordan to make a final break with the Iraqi regime.

A Middle East shuttle by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, who included Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and two trips to Jordan, apparently failed to bring out the success story that Washington may have expected, politicians believe.

Iraqi meanwhile welcomed Mr. Mubarak's cautious response to a speech by King Hussein in which he said Gen. Hassan had told him Baghdad had planned to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

He and other politicians in fact point out that despite the new elements that the King introduced in his speech, if he wanted to show the world that he intends to handle Iraq differently from before, there was a number of measures he could have taken to make that change evident.

Politicians say that Jordan has at least three cards in its hand that it could use to weaken the Iraqi regime and tighten the noose around it.

One of these cards is to physically close the borders between Jordan and Iraq and cut the flow of food and medicine to the Iraqi people, "which the King said he will not do," the former official who spoke to the Jordan Times says.

The second possibility would be to allow the Iraqi defectors to use Jordanian soil as a launching pad for much more damaging activity than media statements calling for the toppling of the Iraqi regime or discrediting it. "Something which until now the King has not allowed," the former official adds.

He and others point out that while the former Iraqi defence minister has been allowed to launch a media campaign out of Amman "it doesn't appear as if he has the go-ahead from the King, to pose a physical threat to the Iraqi regime out of Jordan."

The third tactic is to exert moral pressure on the Iraqi regime to mend its ways and face up to its responsibilities to its own people and the Arab World at large, "which is what the King has done in his speech," says the former official. "But this tactic has limited power to influence the stability of the Iraqi regime."

"In sum, the King is trying to prepare the people for change and for any eventualities that materialise as a result," the former official maintains. "He is not, however, foreclosing any option of closing any door," the former official concludes.

He asserted that the speech

## Iraq: Defector urged invasion

(Continued from page 1)

RC on Oct. 10. "I swear by God...it should not be Kuwait alone," said the recorded voice. "The stick is in the hands of those other than Saudi Arabia. The Eastern Province (of Saudi Arabia) is the core of the problem."

"We have the capability now. Our people are ready. Our army is ready. Our capabilities are ready."

"In my opinion, Sir, we must take a quick decision," said the voice, apparently addressing President Saddam. "Any delay will allow the enemy to mobilise its forces and capabilities against us, leaving us unable to act..." it added.

According to the TV announcer, "Hussein Kamel was the only member (of the RCC) who was calling for occupying Kuwait and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia," and the call was "against the will of the Iraqi leadership."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Thursday that President Saddam had stripped Gen. Hassan and unnamed others whom he described as "the rest

# Sharaa assails Oslo accord

OSLO (R) — Syria said on Friday the historic 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord had resulted in a maze of new negotiations that threatened to strengthen the hand of opponents to peace in the Middle East.

"We had our own reservations about the Oslo agreement from the beginning," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said of the accord hammered out between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the Norwegian capital.

"We said the agreement would be an endless negotiation because each provision would need another negotiation and each agreement emerging from that original

agreement would need further negotiation," said Mr. Sharaa, who was in Oslo for talks with his Norwegian counterpart Bjoern Tore Godal.

"Meanwhile the opponents of peace might gain strength because the longer the peace process takes, the shorter peoples' patience will be..." he told reporters.

Mr. Sharaa in Oslo on the last leg of a five-day tour of Scandinavia, said many people would lose hope in achieving peace and the peace camp would be weakened instead of strengthened.

Syria had been against dividing the peace process into a series of negotiations between separate states, he

said.

"The more we slice peace into pieces, the more peace is partial, the further away stability and security will be achieved in the region," he said. "That's our main concern."

Mr. Godal said he expected to see a positive move in Israeli-PLO negotiations within the next few days.

"We have been in contact almost on a day-to-day basis with parties in the area and I'm relatively confident that we will see positive steps in the area in the next few days," he said.

Norway hosted secret meetings between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators that led to the signing of the Israel-PLO peace accord in

Washington in September 1993.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo for the accord.

Mr. Godal said he had accepted an invitation to visit Syria in the near future, but he did not see any expanded role for Norway as mediator in the region.

Mr. Sharaa said he did not see any end to the deadlock in the near term "because the obstacles on the way of the Syrian-Israeli track are tremendous and at the moment Israel seems not ready to continue the negotiations."

there are American lobbying with the Gulf states on behalf of Jordan? After all, Jordan and these countries are Arab and relations between them should be normal as the case should be among all Arab countries."

"I do not think the U.S. is trustworthy anyway," he added.

Mr. Azar said a scaling down or a freeze to trade and economic ties with Iraq would have serious repercussions on Jordan not only in terms of exports to Iraq but also of employment opportunities in the market.

"About a quarter million people are involved in the aspect of another of doing business with Iraq, in addition to the transit of Iraqi goods through Jordan," he asserted. "These people would find themselves deprived of livelihood if trade with Iraq comes to a halt."

Mr. Abu Hassan agreed that a major segment of the Jordanian economic activities depended on Iraq. "There are more than 250 companies whose production is mostly geared towards the Iraqi market," he said. "However, the plus point is that Iraqis largely depend on Jordanian products, which are produced to meet the Iraqi requirements and nature of needs."

Meanwhile most eyes were focused on the Amman Financial Market (AFM), which opens for regular business today for the first day after the King's speech. No trading took place on Thursday, which is set aside for weekly accounting after business closes on Wednesday,

was quoted as telling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that "army was ready" to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (see separate story).

Leftist Deputy Bassam Haddadin criticised what he described as an "unnecessary escalation in the Jordanian diplomacy."

"Such escalation does not serve Jordan's interests in the long run. The weakening of Jordan," he said.

"We have common interests with Iraq. More than 30 per cent of our exports go to Iraq...we should not make it easy (for the West) to squeeze the Iraqi lemon," he added.

While LAF Deputy Bassam Emoush expressed satisfaction at what he called the King's reassurances that Jordan does not have any ambitions in Iraq but did not believe that Iraq had any intention to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"We have known for a long time now that Iraq is not democratic," he said. "But why was this subject brought up now and why are we forcing it to be committed to democracy. Does this democracy exist in the Gulf states?"

Province is the heart of the problem. We have the capability now. Our people are ready. Our army is ready. Our capabilities are ready. We should not leave the enemies strong. We have not entered Kuwait yet, but the statements and the threats have already reached a peak. The Russians are making statements, the French are moving, and in the end maybe even Russia would carry out aggression against Iraq. We might be hit in any form because we massed troops. The easiest thing to do is to cancel 715, but we have to be on guard against any massing of American or western troops."

"Hussein Kamel does not have credibility," she commented. "How could we determine a course based on what he told us?" she said in reference to a statement made by Gen. Hassan about Iraqi plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"Dr. Ensour said that Dr. Ensour said that the front's stand had not changed vis-a-vis Iraq, nor was there a shift in its belief in the non-interference policy in other countries' internal affairs.

Resolving 715, I think, should be cancelled, and we should reject it. The front stand is clear. If the U.N. is not going to define its role vis-a-vis the siege, we must quickly adopt a stand. It is sure that any move from Iraq will be dealt with harming movements from the West. They will use time to increase their forces' presence in the western part and then they will confront us to harass Iraq and to close Iraq's windows to Jordan and to the northern parts of the country. They can close it at any moment. They can put pressure on Jordan and Jordan is ready to succumb to that pressure because Jordan's position has been rejected and spelled out by the King. He has been attacking Iraq without any reason or justification. We have to take a concrete decision. Any delay will allow the enemy to mobilise its forces and capabilities against us, leaving us unable to act in an impotent situation."

Our military, political party and supply capabilities could be made weaker. They might force our people to challenge us. We have to take a quick decision. I swear by God, in my opinion, it should not be just Kuwait. The stick is in the hands of those other than Kuwait. The Eastern

Provinces are our meeting with Security Council and General Assembly members.

Voice: "Sir, since the aggression on Iraq ended and until today, there has been a great diplomatic effort to end the Siege of Iraq after Iraq withdrew from Kuwait. The given reason for the siege was that we entered Kuwait. We left Kuwait, and then we destroyed many weapons, big weapons. When we analyse the situation, we find that the big powers have not changed (their approach to) Iraq. Sometimes they say that our stand is good, but then they change their mind. In one meeting, France assumed a tough role, and in another Russia takes this role. Even China is using us to improve its relations with the U.S."

It has been a long time since we were put under siege. No country has been put under such a siege. The basic commandments of the Security Council towards Iraq were met. On the contrary the council is putting more demands on us. Sometimes they say Iraq is cutting the ears of deserters. Sometimes it is Ekeus, although Ekeus is well known for its fifth...Ekeus is damned, Ekeus is dirty.

With due respect to the opinions of the others, I have to say that our people are a two-edged sword. If we use it the right way it can resist and fight, but it can also be used against its own interests. These are things that we have seen. To cut it short, we have to take quick decisions. The longer the delay the more they will mass their troops. If we do not move, we will end up in a bad situation."

## World Bank: Gender inequality has economic costs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Women in developing countries have made progress toward equality but still work longer hours for lower wages and receive less education than men, which hurts economic growth, the World Bank said Thursday.

The international lending institution called on governments to invest in women on grounds that gender inequality curbs productivity and stunts economic growth.

"Gender inequality hampers growth, and governments can no longer afford not to invest in women," the World Bank spokesman Klas Bergman told AFP.

World Bank studies show

some major strides for women and girls in developing countries in recent decades, with 85 girls per 100 boys enrolled in primary school compared with 65 girls per 100 boys in 1960.

The female workforce has expanded at double the rate of the male workforce, with 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 formally employed in developing countries, the World Bank said.

But women still labour longer for lower wages in positions of lesser responsibility compared with their male counterparts, it said, while

boys still receive more education than girls.

Women are paid on average only 60 to 70 per cent of what their male counterparts earn, while 77 million girls and 52 million boys of primary school age are not in school, the bank said.

The World Bank issued two reports prepared for the U.N. conference, titled "Advancing Gender Equality" and "Toward Gender Equality," outlining the steps governments can take to promote gender equality and economic efficiency.

"It is critical that govern-

ments take the lead where markets fail to capture the full benefits to society of investments in women," the bank said.

Public spending with the highest social returns should give priority to investments with the greatest impact on women's human capital such as basic education, health care, and reproductive health, it said.

Legal reforms to ensure equal opportunity, economic measures to improve stability and incentive, public policies to invest programmes with high social returns, and

targeted interventions to correct gender inequality can all help achieve major strides for women, it said.

More than one-third of the World Bank's lending portfolio is dedicated to gender issues compared with less than one-tenth a decade ago, it said.

Some \$5 billion of the bank's annual lending of about \$25 billion is devoted to improving the status of women in the areas of primary education, population, health, nutrition, and agriculture, it said.

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JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

## Lebanon's reserves reportedly fall by 40%

ign currency reserves rose by \$144 million in July.

An Nahar quoted the central bank's first deputy governor, Nasser Saidi, as saying the bank had been intervening in the money market, selling dollars to shore up the lira.

While he did not give any figures, he said: "Let's not forget that the situation in recent months was temporary and subject to political developments and circumstances."

That was a reference to political and economic tension triggered by labour unrest in July and threats of strikes next month.

Since Mr. Hariri took office in October 1992, foreign currency reserves have surged from several hundred thousand dollars to nearly \$4 billion.

The emergence of Mr. Hariri and his ambitious multi-billion dollar plan to rebuild Lebanon from the devastation of the 1975-90 civil war has restored confidence in the battered economy.

He is also credited with stabilising the Lebanese lira, which was pegged at about 3,000 to the U.S. dollar shortly before he assumed office. It has been improving daily, selling this week at about 1,614 liras to the dollar.

But that improvement, which occurred despite worsening economic conditions and continued political wrangling, came at the cost of millions of dollars in central bank intervention.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You can impress one in power in the morning with your abilities, but don't rest on your laurels. Be more encouraging to the ideas and suggestions of others.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Use your intuition which is accurate now in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines and be logical in any direction.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your intuition is working fine early in the day, but don't trust it later on. Don't take any risks dealing with others in business.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Make plans to have more abundance in your future. The planets are most favourable today for getting ahead in career matters you are involved in.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to complete any tasks left undone before taking on any new projects today. Don't discuss important business matters with experts unless you're positive they're qualified.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Plan early for whatever you want to do and then carry through intelligently. This can be a particularly fine day for you in any project you're involved in.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets and use care while you are in motion.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Show increased devotion to a loved one today. Plan for the future in your personal life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Study your money situation today and make plans to have more financial security. Strive to be more efficient at work and success will appear.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have confidence with higher ups early and gain their support and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance and the way others see you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Obtain the information you need from the right sources today. A financial expert can give advice for which will help others too.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You may want to join with friends for a good time but don't forget to handle a prior commitment that requires your immediate attention. Then relax later.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

## India's reforms expected to withstand opposition

NEW DELHI (AP) — As India heads into election season, its economic reform programme looks like it's in trouble. Even if economists like the plan, it could be a ballot box loser.

After decades of erecting barriers in pursuit of a Gandhian philosophy of self-reliance and spartan living, India opened its gates in 1991 to foreign investment and Western products.

Four years later, the middle class is thriving. But one-third of the country — 300 million people — still live below the poverty line, and their disenchantment with reform is becoming a political weapon.

The backlash has targeted a few select multinational companies, mainly Americans ones with high-profile projects:

A Hindu nationalist government in Maharashtra state recently scrapped what would have been India's largest foreign investment — a \$2.8 billion power project by the U.S.-based Enron Corp., arguing that Enron's profits would have been too

high.

In Orissa state, the \$643 million power plant contract of another American company, AES Power, is being challenged, even though the state is run by the same Congress Party that introduced India's free-market reforms four years ago.

Earlier this month, Coca-Cola and Pepsi were singled out at a demonstration against Western consumerism that took place in front of a statue of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, the revered independence leader who advocated Indian self-reliance.

In the southern Indian city of Bangalore, 100 policemen are guarding the nation's only Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) restaurant against farmers who threatened to attack it. In a parliament debate in New Delhi, KFC was derided as epitomising the junk-food culture that India does not need.

In newspapers across the country, editorials warn against a foreign invasion that could turn India into a banana republic. Some cite a

joint venture between the state-owned Doordarshan Television and Cable News Network as an example of India losing control.

While these companies have become hot political issues, hundreds of joint ventures and consumer products have been smoothly launched in the last four years.

In an independence day speech to the nation Tuesday, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao appeared on the defensive. "It is wrong to say that these (foreign) investments are promoting consumerism and big industrial houses," he said. Instead, his reforms had liberated the economy of its shackles.

Opposition politicians hope to tap the wellspring of national pride and anti-colonialism that Gandhi unleashed in the 1940s to drive out the British, and that prime minister Indira Gandhi used in the 1970s to expel companies such as Coca-Cola and IBM.

But few analysts believe India's economic reform are likely to be reversed, even if their author, Prime Minister

P.V. Narasimha Rao loses next year's general election.

"Thanks to the Enron decision, many foreign investors will be hesitant about India now," said E. Sridharan, an analyst at the respected Centre for Policy Research think-tank. "No one will bring in much money until after the election and the new government clearly indicates that its economic policies are."

Opposition parties also realise the economic reforms are popular with the estimated 100 million people with money to spend on consumer luxuries, Mr. Sridharan said, and that India can benefit from the many joint ventures between Indian and foreign companies.

Mr. Rao's reforms have scored impressive achievements: Exports are growing by 27 per cent annually, industrial output is up more than eight per cent, and inflation has been reduced to single digits. After mortgaging its gold in 1991 to stave off bankruptcy, India now has foreign currency reserves of more than \$20 billion.

The crisis has been localised; it is likely to remain so for some time and then be extinguished," Mr. Livshits told Interfax news agency.

Russian bankers welcomed the government's promise to step in to help troubled banks, although no details of any bailout scheme have yet emerged.

"Since every banking crisis in Russia is a crisis of confidence and a chain reaction, I think the central bank should bail out larger institutions with credits," said one senior banker. "But it should not go beyond that."

He said some banks were very vulnerable to turmoil on the money market because up to 50 per cent of their balances were parked in the interbank market.

"This is indicative of a systemic crisis and it reveals structural problems," he said. "We will see mergers among some of Russia's bigger banks but not for a while. This is not going to play out easily. The crisis is unprecedented in Russia."

Officials said the crisis, which paralysed the money market and left banks afraid to part with cash, could force some of Russia's 3,000 banks to merge or close. But there was no reason to panic, presidential aide Alexander Livshits said.

"The economy needs more money for payments," he said by telephone. "They have tried to cut inflation too fast. It is like stopping a car — if you break too fast, it leaves the road."

He added: "If the central bank distances itself from this problem it will become a big one."

Tight monetary policies brought Russian inflation down to 5.6 per cent in July, from around 18 per cent in January.

The central bank has reported earlier that gross fore-

## Moscow will help ease Russian bank crisis

interbank market.

"This will make you feel better

about your savings."

The cabinet listened to a report from the central bank government that the economic situation has improved in the previous month," Mr. Livshits told reporters. "The situation, thank God, is unspeakable."

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ported earlier that gross fore-

ign currency reserves rose by \$144 million in July.

An Nahar quoted the central bank's first deputy governor, Nasser Saidi, as saying the bank had been intervening in the money market, selling dollars to shore up the lira.

While he did not give any figures, he said: "Let's not forget that the situation in recent months was temporary and subject to political developments and circumstances."

That was a reference to political and economic tension triggered by labour unrest in July and threats of strikes next month.

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rebuild Lebanon from the

devastation of the 1975-90 civil

war has restored confidence in the battered economy.

He is also credited with

stabilising the Lebanese lira,

which was pegged at about

3,000 to the U.S. dollar shortly before he assumed office.

It has been improving

daily, selling this week at

about 1,614 liras to the dollar.

But that improvement,

which occurred despite

worsening economic condi-

tions and continued politi-

cal developments and circum-

stances."

That was a reference to

political and economic ten-

sion triggered by labour un-

rest in July and threats of

strikes next month.

Since Mr. Hariri took

office in October 1992, fore-

ign currency reserves have

surged from several hun-

dred thousand dollars to ne-

arly \$4 billion.

An Nahar quoted the cen-

tral bank's first deputy gov-

ernor, Nasser Saidi, as say-

ing the bank had been interven-

ing in the money market,

selling dollars to shore up the

lira.

While he did not give any

figures, he said: "Let's not

forget that the situation in

recent months was temporary

and subject to political de-

velopments and circum-

stances."

That was a reference to

political and economic ten-

sion triggered by labour un-

rest in July and threats of

strikes next month.

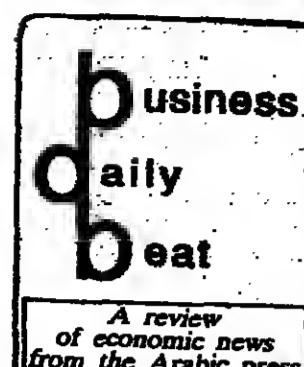
Since Mr. Hariri took

office in October 1992, fore-

ign currency reserves have

# Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995 9



## Ministry to check on financial straits of municipalities

THE MINISTRY of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will this week begin a comprehensive study of the financial conditions of all the municipalities in the Kingdom. According to the minister, Nader Thuherat, many committees were formed for this purpose. Based on the study, the minister said, a working paper will be prepared to put clear and specific concepts and recommendations to improve the financial conditions of the municipalities. Mr. Hariri took October 1992, foreseen reserves have risen several hundred dollars to nearly \$1

mergence of Mu and his ambitious on dollar plan to Lebanon from the de of 1975-91 and restored confidence in the economy, also credited with the Lebanese lira pegged at about the U.S. dollar before he assumed office has been improving despite economic conditions, came at the cost of millions of dollars in central bank inter-

### ROSCOPES

ST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1995

mas 5 Person

Foundation

(March 21 to April 20) can impress one in the morning with its laurels. Be more to the ideas of others.

(April 20 to May 18) your intuition will be now in handling affairs. Think slow and be logical.

(May 21 to June 19) intuition is working in the day, but it later on. Don't risks dealing with business.

CHILDREN: (June 21) Make plans to abundance in your planets are most today for general career matters you need in.

(July 22 to August 20) complete any tests before taking on projects today discuss important business with experts up positive results.

(August 21 to September 19) Support personal life has been loyal in the past. Show a love to a loved one. Plan for the future.

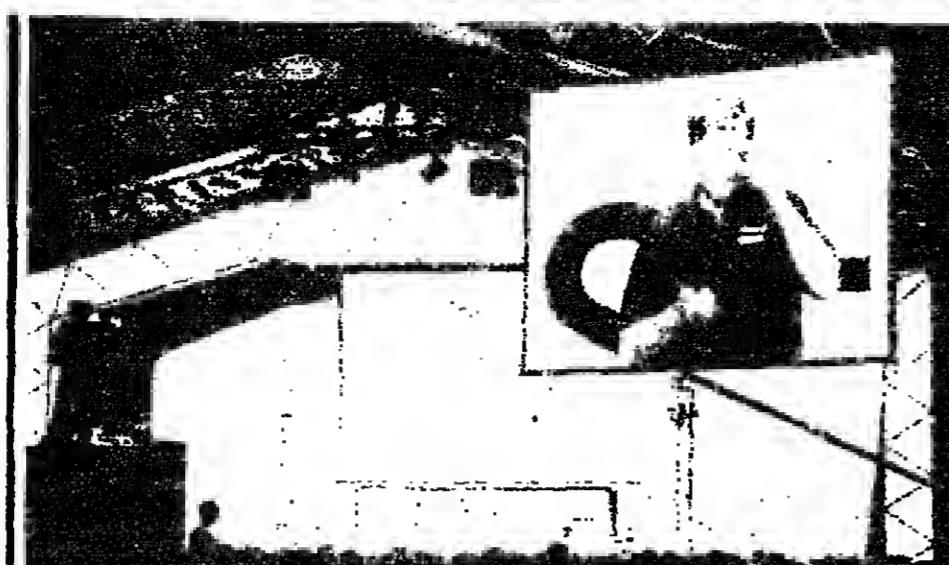
FINANCIALS: (November 21) Study your situation today to have more security. Strive to be efficient at work and it will appear.

INVESTMENTS: (December 20) You have come with higher up costs to gain their support. Take time to appear to others see you way others see you.

US: (January 18 to February 19) Obtain the you need from the you need today. A financial advisor can give advice if you have in mind help others too.

(February 20 to March 19) You may want a friend for a good reason's forget to hand over commitment immediately. Then relax later.

Then relax later.



An image of Microsoft Chairman William Gates is televised Thursday on a big screen as he introduces Windows 95 during the inaugural presentation of Microsoft's new operating system at the firm's Redmond, Washington, campus. The presentation, which included demonstrations of the software and a carnival, was attended by 500 journalists, 2,000 guests, and 9,000 Microsoft employees (AFP photo)

## Mircrosoft's Gates promises new PC era with Windows 95

REDMOND, Washington (R) — In one of the biggest marketing blitzes ever, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates Thursday officially unveiled Windows 95, saying the software would usher in a new era in personal computing.

The product sent hundreds of thousands of computer buffs swarming into electronic stores worldwide, creating the kind of buying frenzy normally associated with concert ticket sales for the world's biggest rock bands.

"For computer people, this is their woodstock," a woman in a Chicago coffee shop said.

But word of a continuing federal antitrust probe cast a shadow over the product launch, one of the most expensive in history.

At a news conference in Washington, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno said the Justice Department was continuing to examine whether Microsoft's online computer network violates antitrust laws. Microsoft stock fell after the comments, dragging other high-technology stocks down with it.

Microsoft's Windows and DOS Operating Systems control the computer desktop market with an 80 per cent market share, and the company has sold 100 million previous versions of Windows software.

This dominance has raised cries of monopoly of rivals, notably those in the online service industry that are worried about Microsoft's entry.

Rivals such as America Online, Compuserve and Prodigy have argued that Microsoft's decision to "bundle" the Microsoft network software with its operating system gives it an unfair advantage.

The industry has launched

a \$500 million advertising campaign, with \$200 million from Microsoft, to persuade consumers to buy application software, computer memory, books and devices along with the 13 computer diskettes that make up Windows 95.

Just last week, Microsoft agreed to alter some of its business practices in another antitrust settlement with the Justice Department.

But at Microsoft's sprawling "campus" headquarters in Redmond, Washington, antitrust woes were far from the minds of the 2,500 cheering guests who gathered under a huge tent for the biggest software product launch ever.

Jay Leno, the comedian and host of the late night television programme, "The Tonight Show," gave the first major demonstration of the new system since it went on sale at midnight.

"I'm kind of a computer virgin here, Bill," Mr. Leno quipped. "As we go through this I hope you'll be gentle."

The crowd roared.

In a more serious tone, Mr. Gates said the new product will make life easier for millions of users of the company's current generation of Windows software.

"This is a platform for new technology," Mr. Gates said. "It moves the PC industry to a whole new level."

In stores across the country, managers reported heavy demand for the \$90 software programme that finally appeared after an eight-month delay. Windows 95 is expected to be the biggest-selling new computer programme in history, generating billions of dollars in sales for the software giant.

The dominance has raised

## Uncertainties over Iraq could have strong impact on AFM this week

*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Prices at the Amman stock exchange largely remained steady while turnover slipped this week, but the market is braced for what could be a serious drop this week related to uncertainties over Iraq, the Kingdom's major export market, brokers reported Friday.

The weekly AFM report said turnover for the week was JD 3.8 million compared with the previous week's JD 4.5 million dinars as spectators hunted down emerging companies.

Princes slipped by about 0.3 per cent, as indicated by the official AFM index based on 60 major firms from

among the 120 listed in the market. The index closed for the week at 155.1 points, down 0.4 points (0.3 per cent) from Saturday's opening of 155.4 points.

Commercial banks and industries accounted for the bulk of the week's trading with a volume of JD 1.5 million and JD 1.49 million dinars respectively. The services sector rang up JD 810,000 dinars and insurance stocks JD 40,000 dinars, the AFM report showed.

Services stocks shed one per cent during the week, insurance 0.8 per cent, insurance 0.1 per cent and commercial banks 0.1 per cent.

AFM dealers, speaking on

condition of anonymity under standing market guidelines, described business during the week as normal and said the 15 per cent drop in turnover did not signify any specific trend.

But, they warned that fears of a rift in ties with Iraq was going to have a strong impact on the market since Iraq is a major export market for many firms listed in the AFM.

"We were expecting a boost in prices next week as a result of the recent agreement on reduction of corporate income tax," said a broker, referring to a compromise between the government and the parliament's finance com-

mittee on amendments to the income tax law and the general sales tax law.

The agreement meant that parliament would endorse an increase of three per cent in sales tax to seven per cent in return for the government accepting a series of income tax reductions that brings down corporate tax to 35 per cent from 50 per cent. Benefiting from the reductions will be hotels, hospitals, industries and mining firms.

"Any strain in ties between Jordan and Iraq will reflect immediately on business prospects and will wipe out all expected gains from the tax reductions," added the AFM broker.

## Cheap dollar brings overseas tourists flocking to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The cheap U.S. dollar has sent European and Japanese tourists flocking to the United States this year, but neighbouring Canadians and Mexicans are staying away because of weaker currencies, tourism experts say.

Windows 95 is one of the most widely anticipated products ever, ranking among classic Coke and the Apple Macintosh computer, experts said.

Kevin Strehlo, editor-in-chief of Datamation magazine, a trade magazine, estimated as many as two million copies of Windows 95 were sold Thursday. Analysts expect Microsoft to sell as many as 30 million copies of Windows 95 before the end of the year.

Despite the hype, Microsoft's stock dropped \$3.75 to close at \$96.125 on the Nasdaq stock market. Earlier, it fell as low as \$95.50 after Ms. Reno reaffirmed the investigation.

Apple Computer Inc. and International Business Machines (IBM) Corp., which both offer competing operating systems, launched ad campaigns of their own denouncing Windows 95 as old, tired technology.

Apple's "truth campaign" included two-page newspaper ads debunking the touted features of Windows 95. It has offered a number of features for years in its Macintosh system that only now are appearing in Windows 95.

The Japanese are keen on shopping. Some 4.4 million of them, up one per cent on last year, are expected to visit this year.

The shortfall is mainly due to fewer Canadian and Mexican visitors, who account for the bulk of tourists in the United States.

Canadian visits are down

by nine per cent to 13.6 million, while the number of Mexicans is expected to fall 15 per cent to some 9.6 million in the wake of the crash of the peso which lost half its value against the dollar in late 1994.

"Overall tourist figures may be down, but in terms of dollars spent, 1995 should be excellent," according to U.S. Travel and Data Centre spokeswoman Shawn Flaherty.

The British, whose num-

bers are expected to be up two per cent to nearly three million, like the fast-food, theme parks, Florida and the west coast, according to tour operators who gathered here

nights, but spent only \$7.4 billion.

Some 1.7 million Germans visited, staying an average 20 nights and spending \$5.1 billion.

The 863,000 French tourists who visited spent \$2.9 billion.

Todd Haenisch, a Kansas-based professor of tourism, said recent trends showed foreign tourists were increasingly people who had been here before.

"Some 76 per cent have been here before and 25 per

cent have been 10 times or more," he said.

As they return, foreigners look for new experiences, increasingly moving away from traditional big tourist hubs such as New York, Los Angeles and Florida in search of the "real" America, Mr. Haenisch said.

"Foreigners are looking more and more for scenery, national parks and freedom of travel," according to Brad Smith of Foremost West, a tourist association representing five of the western states.

## ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

The Central Bank of Jordan announces that, in conformity with the law of the Central Bank and the bylaw of the issuance of Jordanian Currency No.(11) year 1995, a modified JD1 banknote will be put in circulation as from Saturday Aug. 26, 1995.

The specifications of the new note are completely the same as the note currently in circulation, except for the following modifications:

- The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic has been added to the front of the note.

- The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English has been added to the back.

- The dates (both the Hijira and Gregorian) in Arabic have been placed to the right of the dates in English on the back of the note.

The modified note will circulate alongside the existing note and both shall remain in circulation as legal tender.

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

<b>Financial Markets</b> <i>Jordan Times</i> in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank  Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates 24/8/1995	<b>SUPER DELUXE FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT</b> Tlaa Al Ali - ground floor, 220 sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, telephone, garden and garage. Abdoun Real Estate 810805-810609-810520  <b>EURO DOLLAR RENT-A-CAR</b> Make Car Rental Simple Shmeisani Tel: 693399	<b>A SECURE Hotel Sweifteh</b> <b>Turino</b> Flat O.TEL SECURITY GASTRONOMY All Suites Hotel FLAT O.TEL الاجنبية للشقق الفندقية المفتوحة المطلوب بمنطقة على ٤٥٤٣ ٨٦٣٩٤٤ - ٨١٦٦٩٠	<b>Cheers Cafe' Hamburgers + Pizzas ELITE CAFE' Sweifteh</b> 816690 At Turino	<b>STUDIO HAIG</b> Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JUMBO photo size 30% larger</li> <li>Free enlargements 20 x 30 cm</li> </ul> Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042 Sweifteh tel: 823691	<b>SANABEL REAL ESTATE FOR RENT</b> Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman  for further details please call Tel. 864230 Fax. 864231
<b>LONDON EXCHANGE RATES</b>  LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.	<b>NOTHING FAR WITH RELIABLE RENT A CAR</b> Deluxe Furnished Hand Unfurnished Hand Office Space To Suit all Budgets 681113 688816 For Rent - For Rent	<b>CRYSTAL HOTEL</b> CROWN HOTEL OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL TENNIS COURT HEALTH CLUB SPA & JACUZZI TEL. 755180 SALES OFFICE 693399-816690 816499	<b>Your Address in Amman</b> CRYSTAL Quality Furnished Suites One and Two Bedroom Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay 5th Circle - 692672	<b>Champions Sportswear</b> 25-50% Sale on all Summer Clothing	<b>DAJANI'S Unique gold &amp; gems jewelry.</b> King Abdullah Gardens Tel. 699420 816499
One U.S. dollar 1.3478/88 1.4752/62 1.6520/30 1.2170/80 30.33/37 5.0669/19 1613.24/2 96.55/65 7.2890/90 6.4420/70 5.7200/50	Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns	U.S. dollar U.S. dollars	One Sterling 1.5436/46 One ounce of gold \$382.60/383.00	<b>EAT &amp; TELL</b> With Seif & Nawfal Haute Cuisine ITALO - MEX Sweifteh 863944	25-50% Sale on all Summer Clothing

## Japan's Sugiyama upsets Martinez, Bradtke to reach semis

MAWAH, New Jersey (R) — Ai Sugiyama of Japan advanced to the semifinals and Austrian Judith Wiesner and American Canada Rubin reached the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Pathmark women's tennis tournament on Thursday.

Sugiyama, who upset top-seeded Conchita Martinez Wednesday night, rallied to beat Nicole Bradtke of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) Thursday afternoon.

"I felt that I might lose but I just kept going, running for everything and trying to cover the whole court," said the 19-year-old Sugiyama, who is ranked 63rd to Bradtke's 36. "She rallied to win from 2-4 deficits in each of the second and third sets."

Wiesner also was forced to three sets before putting away Lisa Raymond of the United States 6-2, 5-7, 7-5. The Austrian Fed Cup player is ranked 23rd, three places behind Raymond.

"I was finally able to close it out when I served with new balls in the last game," said Wiesner, who was broken on four previous attempts to serve out the match, twice in the second set and twice in the third.

Tatjana Jecmenica of Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, Monica Seles' hometown, pushed Rubin, ranked 16th in the world, to three sets before losing a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 decision.

"I thought I played pretty good," said the 17-year-old Jecmenica. She only won the first and third sets on one break each time. The tournament was good practice for my first U.S. Open."

In the quarterfinals, fourth-ranked Jana Novotna



Conchita Martinez leans on her racket after missing a point (AFP photo)

of the Czech Republic will face 12th-seed Iva Majoli of Croatia and Rubin will meet Marianne Werdel Witzmeyer in an all-American clash in day matches and seventh-

seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria will play Wiesner at Night.

**Portugal's Supercup goes to 3rd match**

OPORTO, Portugal (R) — Portuguese champions Porto and Cup holders Sporting will have to meet again next month to decide the 1995 Supercup after battling to a second draw.

Porto took the lead twice before their home crowd but eventually had to settle for a 2-2 draw despite Sporting being reduced to 10 men for the last few minutes after goalkeeper Paolo Costinha was sent off.

The two teams, who drew 0-0 at Sporting, will meet again on September 20 a neutral ground when the cup will be decided on penalties if necessary.

Porto, without English manager Bobby Robson who is recovering in London from surgery, went ahead in the 18th minute when a shot striker Domingos Oliveira bounced off the right post into the back of Sporting's keeper Costinha and into the net.

Moroccan defender Nouredine Naybet equalised for Sporting in the 42nd minute.

Oliveira, who also scored twice in last Sunday's 2-1 win over Sporting in the opening round of the league, put Porto back in front with a 53rd minute penalty after Sporting's captain Oceano Cruz brought down Porto defender Jose Carlos.

In the 74th minute Sporting hit back again when newly signed Ivorian striker Ahmad Quartara, in a superb solo effort, rounded Porto keeper Vitor Baia to slip the ball home.

In the 82nd minute, Sporting were reduced to 10 men when Costinha, who had not previously been cautioned, was sent off for a foul on Porto's Domingos following a corner.

Midfielder Oceano Cruz took over in goal but only had to make one save from a long-range effort by Oliveira.

## World University Games

### Americans win four golds; Jacob becomes double gold medallist

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Lisa Jacob became the World University Games' first double gold medalist Friday, leading a 1-2 American finish in women's 200-metre freestyle swimming.

Americans won four of the day's six races, and their men's 4x200-metre relay quartet set one of the day's two games records.

P-Envelope Heyns of South Africa, a student at the University of Nebraska, broke a games record in qualifying and then won the women's 200-metre breaststroke at a somewhat slower pace.

"The U.S. crowd got me going," Mull said.

Heyns slashed more than three seconds off the games record, qualifying in 2:26.98.

Tania Bogomilova of Bulgaria had set the old mark of 2:30.30 in 1985.

But in the final, she had to settle for 2:28.44, still well ahead of the 2:31.66 of silver medalist Nadine Neumann of Australia. Japan's Kyoko Kasuya was third in 2:31.85.

"This morning I was surprised to do so well so I'm a little disappointed tonight," said Heyns, the silver medalist at 200 metres and gold medalist at 100 metres in the Pan Pacific meet earlier this month. "I've been working on the 100," she added.

Pieper's winning 8:04.89 in the 800 was just short of the games mark of 8:04.80 set by Canada's Turough O'Hare in 1993. Luiz Eduardo Lima of Brazil took silver in 8:06.01, with Japan's Hisato third in 8:07.82.

Both were timed in 2:00.87, but Gorgouraki was awarded second place.

"That's when I was happy I had the longest arms," said the 6-foot, 6-inch (1.98-centimetre) Majcsov.

The 400-metre individual medley victory by Ian Mull was a repeat of the auburn swimmer's 1993 games triumph. He won in 4:21.41,

with American teammate Andrew Potts of Michigan third in 4:25.73. Japan's Tatuya Kinugasa won the silver in 4:24.85.

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"I was about 9 seconds better than my personal best."

Stanford teammates Jacob and Sarah Anderson, both members of the U.S. gold medal 4x200-metre freestyle relay squad, finished 1-2 in the 200. Jacob won in 2 minutes, 2.03 seconds. Anderson finished in 2:03.22 and Japan's Naoko Imoto was third in 2:03.86.

"It was a lot more difficult today than I thought," Jacob said.

In the previous night's relay, "it was easier with teammates to pull you along and give you inspiration. I gave it my all last night so I'm a little tired. But I'm happy with my time."

The men's relay quartet won in 7:17.83, slashing 2.5 seconds off the games mark of 7:20.34 set by another American quartet in 1985.

France was second in 7:30.02 and Japan third in 7:31.02.

Josh Davis of Texas, Daniel Kanner of Stanford, Chris Rumsey of Michigan and Bradley Schumacher of Pacific swam for the Americans.

In the day's closest race, American Thomas Malebow of Michigan won the men's 200 butterfly in 2:00.78. Alexander Gougeouraki of Russia and American Mike Merrill of Southern California

were 0.02 apart, with Malebow winning in 2:00.78 and Gougeouraki in 2:00.76. Malebow also won the men's 100 butterfly in 51.83, with Gougeouraki second in 52.05.

In women's 100 butterfly, Malebow won in 55.83, with Gougeouraki second in 56.05.

Malebow also won the women's 200 individual medley in 2:10.83, with Gougeouraki second in 2:11.05.

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# German minister ends visit today after successful talks

Bonn to offer DM 140 million every year for regional projects to benefit partners in peace

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- German Minister of Economic Cooperation Carl-Dieter Spranger ends a visit to Jordan on Saturday after talks with Jordanian leaders that were described as highly successful and positive.

The highlight of Mr. Spranger's four-day visit was his announcement that the German government was rechanneling 140 million marks (about JD 70 million) for regional projects in the Middle East to benefit the parties involved in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The amount represents the aid that Germany used to give to Israel every year since 1966 as assistance to a developing country, but the Jewish state will no longer qualify for it since its per capita income is expected to rise over \$15,000 in 1995, Mr. Spranger told a press conference on Thursday.

The assistance, which will be endorsed in the federal government budget in November, will be available throughout 1996 for projects that would benefit all parties in the Middle East peace process. But it is unlikely that Syria and Lebanon could be among its immediate beneficiaries since they have yet to join the multilateral phase of the peace process where regional economic cooperation and joint projects are discussed.

It is too early to determine how much Jordan stood to benefit from the assistance, but given the advanced stage of blue prints for regional projects and presentations at the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman in October, it is a safe bet that the aid could be allocated in early 1996.

In response to a question on potential German investment in Jordan, the minister said as long as businessmen were assured of stability and security as well as liberal economic laws and returns, investments would be coming to Jordan and the region.

At the same time, he said in an implicit reference to violence against the Israeli-



Carl-Dieter Spranger

Palestinian peace negotiations, it was the responsibility of those in positions of influence and decision-making not to give any ground to those who are trying to wreck the peace process.

In a broader context, the minister paid tribute to the economic performance of Jordan and the Kingdom's success in reducing its foreign debts from more than \$8 billion in 1988 to \$5.6 billion in 1994 and in maintaining inflation around four per cent.

The economic policies followed by the Jordanian government has been very successful and as long as they continue (in the same path) there would be investments coming to the country, he said.

On Friday, Mr. Spranger visited Petra and stone conservation projects financed by the German government under way there.

He did not have any official meetings after his press conference on Thursday, the German embassy said.

The German minister began his current Middle East visit in Israel. He also met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza and visited German-funded

projects in Jericho. In Syria, he is expected to hold talks with President Hafez Al Assad and other Syrian leaders and also visit Aleppo, where Germany is funding several development projects.

The minister's visit to Jordan "was very successful, particularly for Jordan," said a German embassy spokeswoman, pointing out to the announcement of rechanneling of 140 million marks.

"It is too early to determine which projects will be identified for the assistance, but the aid falls in line with the German policy of helping the peace process through extending help to the parties involved and for projects that benefit all of them," added the spokeswoman.

In his press conference, Mr. Spranger reaffirmed Germany's commitment to helping Jordan and Israel execute projects stipulated in the Oct. 26 peace treaty signed by the two countries.

That was seen as a reference to a pledge made by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during a visit to Jordan earlier this year that Germany, along with its fellow members of the European Union, was ready to consider financing water projects included in the treaty after studies establish the feasibility of the projects.

Jordan represents the highest per capita recipient of German aid, which totalled two billion marks since the 1960s. German aid for Jordan for 1995 is 42 million marks (about JD 21 million). In addition, Germany contributes 28 per cent of the budget of the European Union, which has a separate aid programme for Jordan and other countries.



Israeli police stop a bus with right-wing activists against the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accord from entering the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway on Thursday (AFP photo)

## Israel, PLO report major progress in self-rule talks

### Soldiers kill 2 Palestinians in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Major progress has been made in the latest round of negotiations to extend autonomy across the West Bank, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) announced.

Friday, but obstacles remain in a full agreement.

The spread of autonomy involves army redeployment outside Palestinian areas of the West Bank, transfer of civilian powers and elections to an autonomy council and is already 13 months behind schedule.

"Important progress was made in the sphere of telecommunications and water," the two sides said in a joint statement after talks this week in the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

"Substantial progress" was made on redeployment and security.

"Although in the important issue of Hebron no progress has been reached," the statement said.

Israel is nearly to withdraw gradually from all West Bank towns apart from Hebron where it wants to retain control to protect 400 settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

"In next week's agenda the two delegations will discuss... Hebron and the release of the Palestinian prisoners, as well as... security and civilian issues," said delegation chiefs Ahmed Korei of the Palestinian Authority and Israel's Uri Savir in the statement.

"A lot of work is still in front of us," Korei, the economy minister, told AFP, but added, "We hope next week we'll solve all these problems."

"We hope to sign the (overall) agreement next month."

The transfer of powers involves 40 spheres and the two

sides said they have now reached agreement over about 25 spheres, but did not specify.

The PLO agreed Thursday to set aside the key issue of water sharing with Israel until final negotiations next year, so clearing one of the major hurdles to a full accord to spread self-rule, officials said.

In return, Israel reorganized Palestinian rights to water sources on the West Bank, Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tsuri said.

Meanwhile Israeli forces killed two Hamas militants in a gunfight after they trapped them in a house in the West Bank town of Hebron on Friday, Palestinians and the Israeli army said.

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army denied the reports.

PLO head Yasser Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the PLO would ask Israel for an explanation. He added, "The Palestinian Authority does not accept in principle physical liquidation and using violence before ascertaining the facts."

Ribhi Sultan, the owner of the house where the clash occurred, said that before dawn two gunmen burst into his home. Soldiers surrounded the building. Mr. Sultan and his family fled.

There was an exchange of gunfire between the militants and troops. Hundreds of soldiers took up positions on rooftops in the area. Security sources said a curfew was imposed on Hebron.

Soldiers ordered Mr. Sultan back into the house when the shooting stopped.

"By my hand I took the bodies out of my home, then they demolished the house," Mr. Sultan, who denied he knew the dead guerrillas, told Reuters.

After troops removed the bodies from the site, journalists were allowed to approach the building. Blood and bits of brain could be seen at the entrance. Later bulldozers moved in and knocked down the house, in the process churning up about a third of a hectare of land planted with trees.

Israeli troops hunting guerrillas routinely use bulldozers and even rockets to destroy buildings in which they believe wanted Palestinians are hiding.

Hamas said Friday its master bomb-maker Yahya Ayyash, who is sought by Israel and the Palestinian Authority, was outside the Gaza Strip.

"Everybody should rest assured that Yahya Ayyash is not at present in Gaza at all," Hamas said in a statement.

## COLUMN

Hagman awake, recovering after liver transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. actor Larry Hagman was fully awake a day after receiving a new liver in a 15-hour operation. "He had a smile on his face and was the Larry Hagman we know," Dr. Leonard Makowka, director of the liver transplant programme at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, said. The former Dallas star was still listed in critical condition but had shown no complications from the surgery and his new liver was working, Dr. Makowka and hospital spokesman Ron Wise said. Mr. Wise said the critical condition listing is typical for patients undergoing such an operation. Hagman, 63, who played J.R. Ewing on the hit nighttime soap Dallas, had advanced cirrhosis of the liver, which he blamed on years of heavy drinking. He was placed on a national waiting list on July 19 after a malignant tumour was found on his liver.

**U.K. papers vow to leave Prince William alone**

LONDON (R) — Editors of Britain's sensation-loving tabloid newspapers promised to heed an official warning and leave Prince William alone when he starts at one of Britain's most exclusive schools next month. The newspapers made their vows after the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, Lord Wakeham, told them the 13-year-old future king was not a football star or a famous actor and should be allowed to grow up without the constant intrusion of reporters and photographers.

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**Bus police on alert**

TEL AVIV — Police in Tel Aviv recently alerted their sources said that Arab militant groups can be expected to attack the British Consulate after the British embassy in Tel Aviv was attacked by a group of anti-British demonstrators.

Police sources said that the British Consulate in Tel Aviv is a prime target for terrorist attacks.

"We are on alert," said a police spokesman. "We are taking all the necessary measures to ensure the safety of our citizens."

**Wanted Filipino actor surrenders to police**

MANILA (R) — Fugitive Filipino actor Robin Padilla surrendered to police Friday after eluding arrest for nearly a month and said he was ready to start his 21-year jail term on gun-possession charges. "I'm ready," Padilla, who became famous portraying disturbed tough guys with golden hearts in his film roles, told reporters. Tears filled his eyes. The actor was convicted of illegal possession of firearms by a court in Angeles City north of Manila last year and his appeal had been rejected.

**Only half of China's women decide whom they marry**

BELING (R) — Fewer than half of China's women have complete say in who they marry, a survey published in China's major newspapers Friday said. The survey, conducted by the state China Central Television Co. in May, showed 47.6 per cent of female respondents had the power to decide entirely who they marry, the newspapers said. For centuries, China's women had no say in their marriages. Parents and matchmakers decided the fate of women often without them seeing their future grooms on the basis of family alliances, wealth and status. The survey showed that 31.5 per cent of today's women consult their parents on whom they plan to marry.

**to hold Majlis elections in March**

IRAN — Iran will hold elections for its Majlis, or parliament, with wider mandates, a senior official announced Saturday.

Ali Reza Tabatabai, a member of the Islamic Republic's Expediency Council, said that candidates will begin registering for the elections from all over the country. The election will be held in March, he said.

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